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PeopleFIRST
NJ Department of Human Services

Monthly Communicator

New Jersey Department of Human Services
Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing



December 2003

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JAMES E. MCGREEVEY
GOVERNOR

GWENDOLYN L. HARRIS
COMMISSIONER

BRIAN C. SHOMO
DIRECTOR

***DDHH Wishes All of Our Readers
a Very Happy and Healthy
Holiday and New Year***



Five Tips to Help Your Deaf or Hard of Hearing Child Enjoy the Holidays

by Paula Rosenthal, J.D.

Holidays are often a difficult time for people with hearing loss, especially young children who have not yet learned or become proficient at coping skills. Large gatherings, music and the rapid pace of activities all contribute to isolating those who have difficulty hearing. With Christmas, Chanukah, Kwanzaa and New Year's all coming up soon it is important to take steps to ensure your child isn't left out of the fun and excitement. Below are some simple ways to encourage your child's participation and help him enjoy this special time of year.

Include your child in the planning. Everyone likes to feel important. If your child is old enough, let him/her help you make the guest list, plan the menu, bake some holiday foods, decorate the house, go gift shopping, etc. Including your child in the holiday planning will bolster his/her self-esteem as well as create a wonderful, family tradition.



Arrange strategic seating assignments. Make table arrangements with your child in mind. If you are not sure where to seat your child in the dining room, experiment beforehand. Can you use round tables instead of rectangular ones so your child can see everyone's faces? Is there a seat away from the bustling kitchen and far from any music speakers that would be best? Don't seat your child next to or right near boisterous party participants. Is there a responsible family member or friend you can seat your child next to who is willing to repeat jokes and toasts your child may miss? Make sure this person is someone your child easily understands. People with accents, mumblers, soft talkers and guests who talk with food in their mouths are not ideal candidates.

Consider using an FM listening device. If your child uses an FM listening device at school or at home, consider using it during the holidays. Make sure it is charged and have it handy so that you can quickly give the microphone to anyone making a speech or toast. Placing the microphone in the center of the table can help your child pick up more table conversation as well. If your child is resistant to having you do this, you can experiment before guests arrive and discreetly place the microphone in the centerpiece arrangement.

Keep the music down. Your child isn't the only one who will have difficulty hearing with music in the background. Many people have mild (and sometimes undetected) hearing loss that doesn't affect them until there is music or a lot of themselves. Develop a signal. In a large group, your child may not want to attract attention by asking for repeats or verbally letting you know they feel left out. Consider developing a special signal that only you, your spouse and your child know. When your child makes the signal you'll be aware that he missed what was said or that he would like to talk to you privately, whatever you have arranged for the signal to mean. This allows your child to comfortably notify you that he is having difficulty. You'll be able to remedy the problem immediately, rather than realizing it too late after the party is over. With proper planning, your deaf or hard of hearing child can truly experience the joy holidays bring. Help him to be included by following these simple tips.

Taking steps to help your child hear and understand as much as possible during the noisy festivities will also enable you to relax and more fully enjoy the holidays.

About the author; Paula Rosenthal, J.D. is married and has two children. She, her husband and daughter are all hearing impaired. Her son has normal hearing. A law school graduate, Paula is the publisher of <http://www.HearingExchange.com>, an online community for people with hearing loss, parents of deaf and hard of hearing children and professionals. She is also a writer and speaker on hearing loss and related issues. To contact her, send an email topublisher@hearingexchange.com. © 2003 Paula Rosenthal and Taylor Rose, Inc. All rights reserved. For reprint permission, send an e-mail with your request to reprints@hearingexchange.com.

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Deadline for submissions: First of the month for the following month's edition

Getting to Know . . . Dennis G. Jones, Jr.

By Traci Burton

DENNIS JONES is a Transition Specialist in Camden County College's Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Students in Blackwood, NJ. He has been an inspiration to students with hearing loss and teaches that people must overcome communication barriers to reach goals they may have thought were not reachable. He can be reached at (856) 227-7200 ext. 5039 Voice or (856) 374-4855 TTY, for information regarding the program.



Q. You are not originally from New Jersey. Where are you from?

A. I grew up in South

Williamsport, Pennsylvania. It's approximately four hours from Camden, in the northeastern part of the state.

Q. Where did you go to college and what are your degrees in?

A. I received my undergraduate degree from Gallaudet University in psychology in 1993. I received my MS degree from Western Maryland College (now called McDaniel College) in 1996. I am currently enrolled at Rowan University while working on my second master's (MA) degree. I thought I had too much free time, so I decided to do something productive. (laughs)

Q. What is your professional background?

A. After Gallaudet, I went to work for a human services agency in Baltimore. They had a day habilitation program for deaf adults who had developmental disabilities and various emotional and behavioral disorders. I started there as a part-time direct care worker - one on one with the clients. When I left about four years later, I was the director of five different programs, including day habilitation, Deaf-Blind, and supported employment.

In 1997, I went to work for the Model Secondary School for the Deaf (MSSD) in Washington, D.C. as a Family Educator. I was the liaison between the families and the school. My job was to encourage, facilitate, and develop parental involvement with the students' academic lives.

Research has shown that active family involvement has an extremely beneficial effect on a students' academic achievements. That was a challenging position.

In 1999, my wife (who is originally from NJ) and I decided to move to NJ. When we first moved here, I took a job in an unrelated field that did not involve the deaf. After about two years, it hit me that I really missed working with the deaf! So I started looking and asking around and that's how I came to Camden County College. I have been here since December 5, 2001.

Q. Please describe your current position.

A. My official title is Transition Specialist. I'm responsible for working with new and current students. I do recruiting, act as a liaison between the students and Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, assist with the financial aid process, and conduct academic advising. I also administer the placement tests for our program. I teach a Life Management class during the spring. I give presentations to different groups and organizations about our program and answer questions they may have regarding deafness. I also work on other projects and duties as assigned.

Q. What is your favorite part of the job?

A. It would have to be when I see the students surprise themselves. Many of them express doubts about their ability to handle a college curriculum or a specific class. When they pass a class that they had been nervous about and discuss it, that to me is the best part because I know they have surpassed their expectations. They have overcome this mental barrier that they have created. You can see their sense of pride and confidence growing. As

Continued on page 4

freshmen, they are unsure of themselves, but by the time they graduate, they are more confident. They have reached a milestone in their lives, and it's just a wonderful feeling to know that you were there to assist them. It's fantastic.

Q. As a man who is deaf in an excellent professional position, you are not only a positive role model for your students, but also a fantastic influence on them, true?

A. I once made a statement that every deaf individual is an ambassador for the deaf community. By that, I mean that mainstream society is largely ignorant of the inner workings of the deaf community. As a result, they make judgments from the actions they see by its individual members. If deaf individuals present a positive image - that they are confident, professional, and mature, it not only reflects well upon them, it reflects well upon the deaf community. When they engage in negative behaviors, poor impressions and stereotypes develop which become harmful to the community.

I tell all my students that the cold hard fact of the world is that the deaf population is in the minority. This does

not mean that their value as human beings is any less. Mainstream society may always have some preconceived notions about the deaf, which are inaccurate, such as low expectations for school performance. This is ridiculous. A loss of the ability to hear does not mean that you lose the ability to use your mind. I tell students that they have to be prepared to work three times as hard as anybody else. Not twice as hard, three times as hard in order to get the point across that deaf people can succeed. Is this fair? No, but that's the way it is.

Q. Have you ever seen a former student and who says, "because of you, I now..."?

A. Former students have thanked me for not giving up on them when they were ready to give up on themselves. I feel it is part of my job to help them recognize that they do have abilities. It is a wonderful feeling. It makes all the aggravations a position like this can bring (and it does have its aggravations!) all worthwhile. Of all the positions I have had in the past, this is the most personally and professionally fulfilling.

Oupatient Counseling Offered in South Jersey

Submitted by Julie Doerrmann

The Center for Family Services, Recovery Network for Deaf and Hard of Hearing, announces Intensive Outpatient (IOP) services for Deaf & Hard of Hearing. These IOP services will be provided in at One Alpha Avenue, Suite 43, in Voorhees, New Jersey. These services will be offered along with our Motivational Outpatient Group and Continuing Care Group to offer a continuum of outpatient care for deaf and hard of hearing people in the state of New Jersey.

We are pleased to introduce our new staff member, Geraldine "Gerrie" Emmons, as the IOP Counselor for Deaf & Hard of Hearing. Ms. Emmons uses American Sign Language, and is proficient in other modes of Sign Communication.

Ms. Emmons will provide assessments, along with individual, group, and family counseling sessions. The Intensive Outpatient Group meets three groups per week for three hours each evening. Clients will also have individual and family sessions. All these counseling services will be provided via direct communication, without assistance of an interpreter. If a client needs a level of care not available in our treatment program, clients will be referred, and assisted through the process until the appropriate treatment is accessed.

If you would like further information about the Intensive Outpatient program, please feel free to call Julie Doerrmann at (856) 428-8383 TTY, (856) 428-0949 Fax, or jdoerrmann@centerffs.org.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor;

Can you imagine losing one's beloved spouse, arranging a lovely memorial service, and a few months later finding a published article criticizing and ridiculing that service? Well, it happened to me, in your publication, under the title, "A Frustrating Experience in the Hearing World." I am so upset, and during my period of grief, too. This person is deaf, and while the church provided hearing equipment, perhaps it wasn't working to her satisfaction. I understand her feelings, as my mother was deaf, but everyone tried to accommodate her.

The church concerned is a small, friendly group, and graciously had lent us their sanctuary and hall, though we are not members.

For this woman to harass the minister and cause a scene was so inappropriate, and she styles our good friend, who tried to stop her, as being from "hell." It was a family affair, celebrating Charlie's life. We picked out his favorite music, and our son rehearsed and led the band. All the musicians were his friends. He had belonged to several bands before he became ill, a small ensemble he had formed himself.

The playing of "Amazing Grace" on the pipes was beautiful, and traditional for memorial services. There was a lovely eulogy by our son, and reminiscences by friends. Everyone agreed it was all lovely, except one. And, she could have taken the high road, to grace, and either left, waited in the lounge, or in the hall, where tables were set up with refreshments. But she chooses to continue to harass and cause me more pain.

I have known many handicapped people, and my husband, who was confined to a wheelchair for six months before his death (imagine what he had to give up) but never have I known one who wanted to cause others grief because of her infirmity.

I hope you will print the other side of the story.

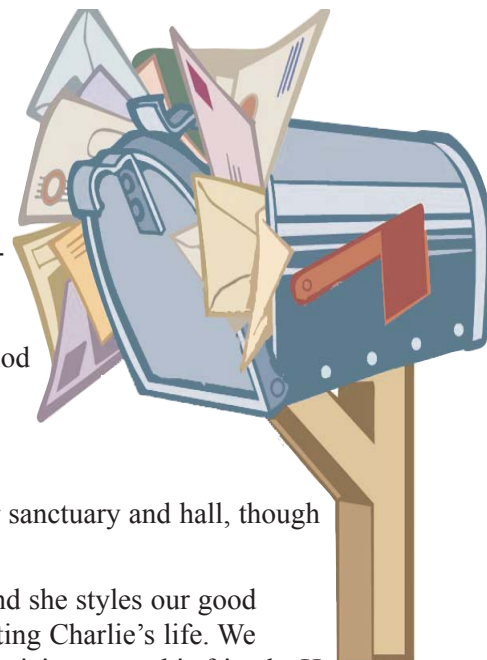
*Sincerely,
Joyce Vollherbst*

Dear Editor;

Yesterday I was given copies of two pages of the Monthly Communicator. There were no dates on them, but I assume they were from your October issue. One of the pages featured an article by Beverly Sudler. This article describes what Mrs. Sudler describes as a very unpleasant time she had at the memorial service for Charles Vollherbst on June 29, 2003. This article is so vitriolic and so unfair that I feel impelled to respond. I am writing this letter to you as a lay member of the Union Village Methodist Church and one of the musicians who participated in the memorial service.

First of all, let me apologize to Mrs. Sudler for the fact that the assisted listening receiver she was given did not provide her with the amplified sound she had a right to expect. Mr. Vollherbst was not a church member, so most of the attendees at the service were strangers to the church. There were dozens of people milling about before the service started who were not familiar with the area and the equipment. Evidently one of them inadvertently switched off the transmitter for our assisted listening system and, as a result, Mrs. Sudler's receiver was useless. Beyond that, Mrs. Sudler has NO legitimate complaint.

Mrs. Sudler was a guest in our church. Her actions are comparable to those of a dinner guest who complains that the host did not provide a full seven-course dinner, complete with sterling silver service and linen napkins. She disrupted a very solemn memorial service by rushing up to each person attempting to present a eulogy and insisted that the person wear her personal "Williams Pocket Talker." She complained about the music provided by some 40-musician friends of



Letters continued from page 4

Mr. Vollherbst. Those musicians were playing there out of their friendship for the deceased and at the request of Mrs. Vollherbst. Incidentally, Mrs. Sudler who was a friend of Mr. Vollherbst for 25 years, thought he was a French Horn player. Mr. Vollherbst played the Baritone Horn and the Tuba, but not the French Horn. Not content with disrupting a very solemn service, when friends of Mr. Vollherbst were trying to present eulogies, Mrs. Sudler rushed to the chancel area immediately after the service ended and attempted to harass the pastor. The “nasty woman...” who stepped in to defend the pastor, was one of the eulogists and one of the dearest friends of the Vollherbst family. She was greatly disturbed by Mrs. Sudler’s actions.

Mrs. Sudler complained that she was given a receiver with only one ear bud-actually, she insisted on taking two of the receivers, leaving none for any other hearing impaired person. What she apparently does not realize, is that there are many churches that have NO assisted hearing systems at all. We have no apologies for the receivers. The receivers, and their associated transmitter, represent the efforts of our caring congregation to make our worship services more meaningful to the hearing impaired.

We have apologized to Mrs. Sudler for the fact that our assisted listening devices did not assist her. I believe she owes our church an apology for her actions during the memorial service and for insulting our church through her slanderous article in the Monthly Communicator.

Sincerely,
William Babcock

Dear Editor;

On page 3 of the October Monthly Communicator, the report “Facts on Hearing Loss” omitted several important causes of sensorineural hearing loss. Ototoxic and vestibulotoxic drugs are a major cause of hearing loss, tinnitus and dizziness. Since hearing loss is most prevalent in people over 65, this is the population that consume the most prescription and non-prescription drugs.

Many common medications such as loop diuretics including the widely prescribed drug Lasix can contribute to hearing loss. Aminoglycosides which are antibiotics including gentamicin and kanamycin are ototoxic. Even taking too many aspirin, as many people with arthritis do, can result in a hearing loss. People receiving chemotherapy for cancer, especially when the drug is cisplatin often show immediate signs of hearing loss. Patients who receive chemotherapy and radiation combined are susceptible to ototoxic hearing loss.

I have listed the most common ototoxic drugs. There are many more drugs that have hearing or balance side effects. Anyone who experiences tinnitus (ringing in the ears), dizziness or hearing loss when taking a drug should contact the physician immediately. Audiologic monitoring of patients treated with ototoxic drugs provides the best assurance that the patient taking such drugs will be protected against the devastating effects of a drug induced sensorineural hearing loss.

I would appreciate your noting this information in a subsequent issue of the newsletter.

Sincerely yours,
Granville Y. Brady, Jr., Au.D.

Editor’s Note: On page three, in the October issue of the Monthly Communicator, we published an article about a new telephone technology called **CapTel**. Consequently, the Division received many calls from readers who requested additional information. We were also asked if our equipment distribution program has the phones. Since the technology is only in the testing stage, it is not yet available to the public. For additional information, you may contact Ultratec at 888-269-7477 Voice or www.ultratec.com.

Editor’s Note: If you have a suggestion about whom we can interview for this column, please contact the editor at 800-792-8339 V/TTY, or ira.hock@dhs.state.nj.us. We are seeking interviewees who could be positive role models for people who are Deaf, Deaf-Blind, Hard of Hearing, or Late-Deafened.

Sign It, Don't Say It!

The countdown began at 8:00 p.m. on Friday, October 17, 2003. On the count of three all voices were silenced and communication was only through using ASL, gestures, or writing on paper until Sunday, October 19th at noon! The Real ASL Storytelling Weekend was a huge success! Participants joined from all over NJ, and parts of NY and PA.

The biennial event, which is co-hosted by The NJ Association of the Deaf and NJ Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, took place at the Ramada Inn, Flemington NJ. The weekend was kicked off with Jan Niedermaier leading the group in a hilarious game of TV Charades. Saturday found the group divided by skill level (beginner, intermediate and advanced) attending workshops. Festivities on Saturday concluded with a banquet dinner accompanied by an awesome interactive storytelling provided by Peter Cook. Sunday morning was one final workshop and voices were turned back on.

Workshops focused on different aspects of ASL Storytelling lead by Peter Cook, Eileen Forestal, and Manny Hernandez. Each presenter provided the participants with valuable information pertinent to the preservation and appropriate use of storytelling in ASL. Workshops were captivating, entertaining and rich with knowledge. Each

learning level of students experienced all three instructors' styles in various topics relative to their ability. The learning environment was one of encouragement and hard work.

The entire event was coordinated by a team led by Peter Rozynski, Bonnie Thomas, and Suzanne Baker. The volunteer team met with their invaluable committee regularly all year, working tirelessly to provide a four star weekend. In addition to the workshops, a Silent Auction, was hosted throughout the weekend and raised donation funds topping previous years. This was incredibly and beautifully coordinated by the talented Lauren Kafka. Keeping with tradition and ensuring "silence" as an integral part of the learning process participants were "fined" on an honor system 25 cents each time they used their voices. Money collected from the speaking fines will be donated to the Alan Barwielek Scholarship Fund at Union County College.

The Real ASL Storytelling Weekend was truly a unique learning experience for all who were involved. It was a reunion of friends, a networking exchange of colleagues and most importantly a special memory for all who were involved. See you in 2005!



Available Jobs

Adjunct instructors - ASL levels I, II and III. Sussex County Community College in Newton, NJ seeks instructors for its spring '04 term. Qualifications: ASL proficiency; teaching experience; minimum of Bachelor's degree. Fax resume to: Director of Human Resources, Sussex County Community College, (973) 300-2302 Fax or call Naomi Miller at (973) 300-2190 Voice. Applications must be received no later than December 15th, 2003.

Part time package handlers - United Parcel Service, 301 East Oak Avenue, Lawnside, NJ, 1(800)JOB-4UPS, www.upsjobs.com seeks part time package handlers. Salary is \$8.50 per hour, 3 to 5 hours per day, Monday - Friday no weekends. Three shifts to choose from - start times: Preload (4 a.m.), Twilight (5 p.m.) & Midnight (11p.m.) FREE Transportation offered for midnight shift (11 p.m.) only with pick up and drop off points in Camden, Gloucester City and Brooklawn. After six months, benefits include medical, prescription, dental, and vision. Apply in person, Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, 9 - 11a.m. and 2 - 5 p.m. However, if you need communication access, please call (800) 562-4877 Voice and schedule an appointment.

Sign Language Interpreter - To be available for Gibbs College student throughout the 2004-2005 academic year. Salary is negotiable. Approximately 20-24 hours per week. Please send resume and letter of interest with copy of certificate to: Sheila Turner-Santiago, Gibbs College, 33 Plymouth Street, Montclair, New Jersey 07042. Info; (973) 744-2010 Voice ext. 2015 or sturner@gibbsnj.edu.

Did You Know That . . .

The DDHH popular publication, **Organizations Serving People With Hearing Loss in New Jersey** has been mailed to everyone who receives the Monthly Communicator newsletter. If you did not receive a copy, you may request one by calling the division at 800-792-8339 V/TTY or checking out the Web site; <http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/ddhh/Publications/DDHHorgbk.pdf>.

Metropolitan Asian Deaf Associaton will meet at the Jersey City Public Library, 678 Newark Avenue, between Summit Ave. & and JFK Blvd., Jersey City, NJ 07306. Their phone number is (201) 547-4543 Voice. Meetings will be held in the auditorium on January 17 and March 20, 2004 from 2:00 p.m.- 5:00 p.m. The Association will also meet at the Main Jersey City Public Library, 472 Jersey Avenue, Jersey City, NJ 07302. Their number is: (201) 547-4500 Voice. This meeting will be held in the Grundy room on the third floor on Saturday, February. 21, 2004 from 2:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. For additional information check Web site at <http://www.mada-nynj.org>.

Religious Access

Catholic Community Services - Ministry with the Deaf has services interpreted on the 2nd and 4th Sundays at 10:15 a.m. The interpreters are Mary Olson and Kathy Porcelli at Our Lady of Fatima Church, 403 Spring Street & Route 1-9 South, North Elizabeth, NJ 07201. For more information, please contact Delfim Fragueiro at; Delfimfragueiro708@hotmail.com or (908) 352-4063 Fax.

Events Around the Towns . . .

Statewide Partners in the Arts Festival - Registration is underway for the VSA arts of New Jersey Annual Statewide Partners in the Arts Festival on Tuesday, May 25, 2004 at Middlesex County College in Edison from 9:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Partners in the Arts is a festival that fosters the integration of individuals with and without disabilities in the celebration of the arts. Children and adults, individuals and school groups are invited to this enjoyable, enriching, fun-filled day of performances, arts workshops, exhibits and much more. Interested participants are also invited to register to present exhibits and performances for the festival audience. This event is offered free of charge. The festival is one of the many projects of VSA arts of New Jersey, a statewide nonprofit organization dedicated to enriching the lives and promoting the creative power of individuals with disabilities throughout New Jersey. Co-sponsors for this event are the Middlesex County Cultural and Heritage Commission and Middlesex County College. This program is made possible in part by funds from New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State, a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts, and the central office of VSA arts, under an award from the U.S. Department of Education. Individuals, schools, and organizations are invited to participate in this event. Please contact Karen Singer for registration materials at VSA arts of New Jersey, 703 Jersey Avenue, New Brunswick, NJ 08901, (732) 745-3885 Voice, 745-5935 or 745-3913 TTY or info@vsanj.org. Registration deadline is April 20, 2004.



The Hearing Society, located in the First Baptist Church of Westfield, P.O. Box 2534, Westfield, NJ 07091, has office hours from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon on Thursdays only. Classes in Basic Sign Language are from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m./ Lip Reading is from 10:45 to 11:45 a.m. - free to members of the Society. Mark your calendar for Pot Luck Luncheons on December 11th at 12 noon. You are invited to come and bring a favorite dish to serve 8-10 people. For more information please call Kay Schmitt, Director of the Hearing Society at (908) 233-0266 V/TTY.

DAWN, Inc. - sponsors a monthly social for all Deaf Senior Citizens of Northwest Jersey on the 3rd Wednesday of the month. Please make a note that there will be no meetings during January, February, and March of 2004. We will start our meetings again in April 2004. Info; Lila Taylor, Deaf Outreach Specialist, ltaylor09@aol.com, DAWN, Inc. 400 South Main St., Suite #3, Wharton, NJ 07885 or contact (973)-361-5666 Voice, (973) 361-7086 Fax, (973) 361-6032 TTY, 888-383-DAWN, info@dawninc.org.

Barnert Hospital offers several regularly scheduled support groups that are open to the public. These support groups can accommodate both Deaf and hard of hearing individuals if requests are made in advance. We offer sign language interpreters and/or an infrared system. Please contact ACCESS at (973) 977-2294 TTY or (973) 977-6690 Voice to arrange for services.

Support Group Meetings:

Weight Management

2nd Wednesday of the month (6 p.m.)

Overeaters Anonymous

Every Wednesday (7 p.m.)

Diabetes

2nd Tuesday (7 p.m.)

HIV

4th Tuesday (2 p.m.)

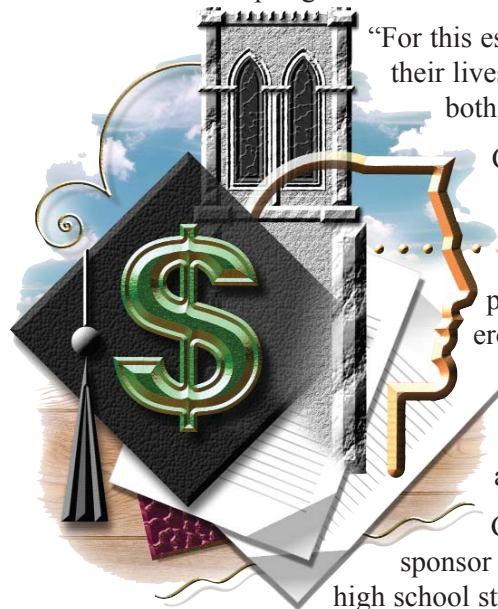
Breast Cancer

3rd Wednesday (6:30 p.m.)

National Essay Contest for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Students

Random Acts of Kindness will be the Theme for 2004 Scholarships Awarded

Every year, Gallaudet University challenges deaf and hard of hearing students throughout the United States to write an essay on a specific theme and offers scholarship prizes for the winners. All the winning essays are published in the spring edition of the Laurent Clerc National Deaf Education Center's World Around You magazine.



"For this essay contest, we're encouraging teens to write about random acts of kindness in their lives-whether as the giver or the receiver, or to write about a time when they were both," said World Around You editor Cathryn Carroll.

Carroll expressed appreciation to Eric Albronda, son of author Mildred Albronda, who wrote Douglas Tilden: The Man and His Legacy, a picture biography of the famous deaf sculptor. Albronda, through The Mildred Albronda Memorial Foundation, donated 26 copies of this book featuring photographs from Tilden's life and of his sculptures. "Eric has often made generous donations to the contest," she said. "But this year, he was especially generous. He donated enough books for all of our place winners and their teachers. It is his hope that the teachers will keep the book, which is filled with beautiful photography, in their classrooms for their own continued enjoyment and for successive classes of students."

Gallaudet University's Department of Enrollment Services and the Clerc Center sponsor the Gallaudet National Essay Contest to encourage deaf and hard of hearing high school students, 15-19 years old, to aspire to higher literary achievements. Place winners will receive certificates and scholarship money for the college or postsecondary school of their choice-\$1,000 for first place; \$500 for second place; \$300 for third place; and \$100 for each of two honorable mentions. All scholarship awards will be doubled for winners who choose to attend Gallaudet University. Contest entries must be postmarked by February 11, 2004.

For further information, or to access contest entry guidelines, visit the contest Web site at:

<http://clerccenter.gallaudet.edu/WorldAroundYou/essay.html> or e-mail questions to: essaycontest@gallaudet.edu.

Deaf-Blind Explorers Organization Plans Hawaii Trip

Deaf-Blind Explorers is an international organization dedicated to providing traveling and touring experiences for the people who are deaf-blind all across the world. Deaf-Blind Explorers provides the unique experience of exploring destinations that otherwise may not be available to deaf-blind individuals due to their dual-sensory impairments. Deaf-Blind Explorers as an organization strives to expand their members' horizons by educating the non-disabled people of the world that people who are deaf-blind can enjoy the same benefits as non-disabled people by exploration of the world around them without any barriers or limitations.

"Adventure in Hawaii"

Date: May 10-22, 2004

Price: \$2,045 (and \$1,865 for SSP only)

Deposit: \$350 per person by January 21, 2004. Price based on double occupancy.

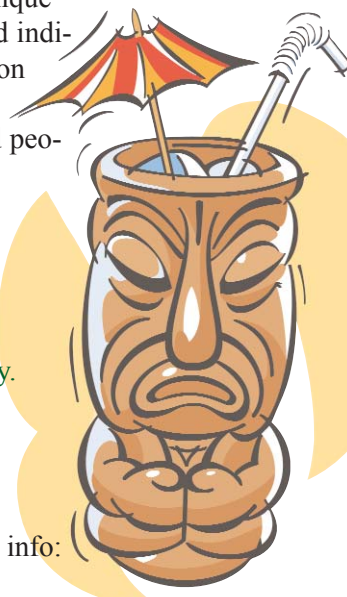
We are selling raffle tickets and the Drawing is on February 1, 2004.

Prize: Trip for Two - Hawaii 6 nights in Oahu and 6 nights in Maui, including airfare from and to LA

Donation: 1 @ \$5, 3 @ \$10, 10 @ \$25

If anyone is interested in purchasing the raffle, please contact: sischueller@aol.com info:

<http://www.deafblindexplorers.org/Hawaii>



Communicator Signboard

Monmouth-Ocean County Deaf Community Association, Inc.

Christmas Dinner and DINGO GAME (Game Starts at 8:00 p.m.)

December 13, 2003

Time: 4:00 p.m. to 11:30 p.m.

Recreation Hall Clubhouse

(Larkin Road and Memorial Pkwy, Oakhurst, NJ, next to Oakhurst Fire Dept)

Craft Drawings, Bid, Door Prize, and Guess Candies.

There will be a Christmas tree, please bring presents for your children.

We will put them under the tree. Santa Claus will be there. (Presents \$5 limit)

Bring your hot or cold buffet foods to share with us, you will get five free tickets. Let us know what kind of food you will bring so we will have a variety.

Donations: \$15 per person, Kids - \$8 from 3 yrs old to 17 yrs old

Reservation required before Dec. 6

(It will be limited, 100 people for dinner, please RSVP)

Info: MOCDCA, Inc., 625 Sussex Ave., Spring Lake, NJ 07762,

PresSec2002@aol.com, (732) 714-8911 V/TTY.



The Distinguished Poets Series of the Poetry Center

Saturday, December 6, 1:00 p.m.

The Distinguished Poets Series of the Poetry Center at Passaic County Community College
presents a

Poetry Reading by Mark Doty,

at the Hamilton Club Building

32 Church Street

Paterson, NJ.

An open reading and reception will follow. Admission is free.

A sign language interpreter will be present. A poetry writing workshop is scheduled with Mark Doty at 9:30 a.m. at the Hamilton Club. Fee: \$10. Pre-registration is required.

Info; Contact Maria Mazziotti Gillan, Executive Director, of the Poetry Center
at (973) 684-6555 Voice.

Communicator Signboard

Deaf Senior Citizens of Northwest Jersey sponsored by DAWN, Inc.

Holiday Dinner Party

Zeris Inn, Chrisandis Restaurant, 372 Rt. 46 East, Mountain Lakes, NJ 07046

Sunday, December 14

5:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Cash Bar and Appetizers

Menu: Prime Rib, Chicken Marsala or Salmon Rosemary, plus Salad, Potato,
Vegetable, Rolls, Roll Cake, Ice Cream and, Coffee & Tea)

Your choice of meat will be at the party. **Door Prizes!**

RSVP by December 5

Name: _____

Number attending: _____ X \$26 (non-member of DAWN, Inc.)

Number attending: _____ X \$20 (discount if member of DAWN, Inc.)

Send a check or money order made payable to: DAWN, Inc. 400 S. Main Street, Suite 3, Wharton, NJ 07885 Attn:
Lila Taylor/Deaf Outreach Specialist Info; DAWN, Inc. 973-361-6032 TTY or Ltaylor09@aol.com

Perth Amboy Catholic Deaf Club
Holy Spirit Church-Basement
Perth Amboy, NJ

Christmas Party

December 14

12:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Admission: Member \$20, Non-member \$25

Hot buffet, dinner, desserts, drinks

Bring any dessert- and receive free door prize tickets

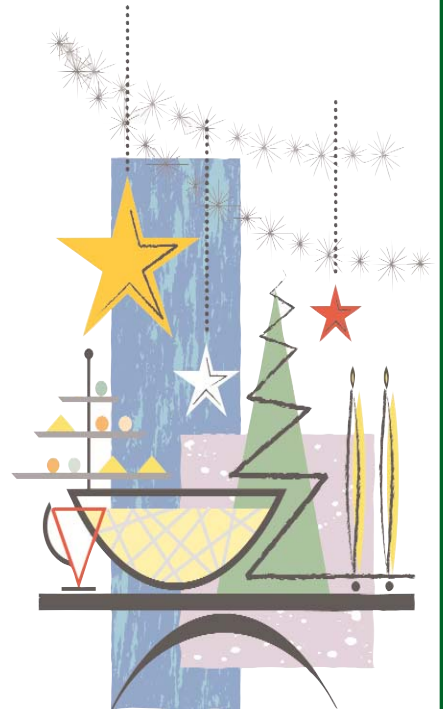
50-50 Door Prizes - New Game

No children under 18 years old

Info: Arcelia Velez (732) 942-9360 Fax/TTY

Bring your smiling friends.

Hope to see you there!



Communicator Signboard

Ocean Deaf Club, Inc
**19th Annual Holiday Around the World
Christmas Party**
Saturday, December 20
4 p.m. - 11 p.m.

The Presbyterian Church, 101 Orchard Street, Lakehurst, NJ
Hot Entrees Buffet, Chicken Marsala, Homemade Roast Beef
with Gravy Eggplant Parm, Garlic Potatoes, Mixed
Vegetable, Salad, Rolls & Butter Coffee, Tea and Dessert

Admission: Member \$22, Non-Member \$24

Lingo Night at 8 p.m.

Deadline is December 12

Make check or money order payable to Ocean Deaf Club, Inc
and mail to Ocean Deaf Club, Inc., PO Box 34,

Lakehurst, NJ 08733

Info: 609 607-0261 Fax or Sango46@aol.com



Our Way/Jewish Deaf and Hearing Impaired Council



invites all Jewish Deaf and their families to the
Annual Chanukah Party

**Where: Home of Joel and Sally Cohen,
Livingston, NJ**

Thursday, December 25th @ 7 p.m.

Free, Bring a friend and a smile!

Enjoy the Holiday of Miracles, large and small . . .

Door Prizes/ \$5 Grab Bag for Chanukah Fun

Exciting Guest Speaker, Friends, Holiday Treats,

Candle Lighting and more . . .

Call or e-mail for directions and to RSVP:

Sally & Joel Cohen: JCohenRet@aol.com,

(973) 992-3182 TTY, Judy Citer:

jdciter@optonline.net

Communicator Signboard

New Years Eve Party



Portuguese Social Deaf Club
Portuguese Club Hall
409 RT 1-9 & Broad Street
to Grove Street, Elizabeth NJ 07202
December 31, at 7:00 p.m.
Admission: Members: \$75
Children: \$35

Non-Members: \$100; Children: \$40
Info: E-mail Delfim at: Delfimfragueiro708@Hotmail.com



Deaf Ministry Gingo Night

Saturday, January 10, 2004
6 p.m. - 12 a.m. Game starts at 7:30 p.m.
\$7 per person

Limited to 200 people.

St. Gregory's Church (basement), 340 E. Evesham Ave.
Magnolia, NJ 08049 (corner of White Horse Pike/Rt. 30)

No outside food or beverages allowed.

Proceeds benefit St. Gregory's.

Door will open at 6 p.m. - no early birds please!

If paying at the door, \$10 per person, cash only.

Food will be on sale until 7 p.m.

Desserts will be on sale during intermission.

Info: 856-627-0009 V/TTY, 856-482-5657 Fax, deafministrynj@yahoo.com

Make check payable to deaf ministry and mail to: 525 Doe Lane, Cherry Hill, NJ 08034.

Include name, address and e-mail address.

Adults only (21 years old and up) Mail no later than January 3, 2004. No refunds

Communicator Signboard

Academy of Music

15th and Locust Streets, Philadelphia, PA

OLIVER

Open Captioned Performance: Wednesday, January 7, 2004 8 p.m.

LES MISERABLES

Open Captioned Performance: Tuesday, March 9, 2004 8 p.m.

In order to assure that individuals needing captioning are located in specially reserved seats with the best view of the captioned monitor, call Nathan Cook in Subscriber Services Department at (215) 875-7647 Voice or e-mail ticket requests to him at nathanc@kimmelcenter.org. There is a 20% discount to individuals with hearing loss and one guest in the open captioned section of the theater only. Groups of 20 or more should contact our Group Sales Department at (215) 790-5883 Voice or e-mail mjoyce@kimmelcenter.org.

Info: www.kimmelcenter.org/broadway

Monmouth-Ocean County Deaf Community Association, Inc.

3rd Annual Basketball Invitational Tournament

Spotswood High School,

105 Summerhill Rd., Spotswood, NJ 08884

Base (8 men's teams) 1st \$600, 2nd \$400, 3rd \$200

Base (4 ladies' teams) 1st \$300, 2nd \$200, 3rd \$100

The team fee is \$150 (2 guarantee games, \$175 late fee)

Deadline is December 31, 2003

Basketball Inc. Tour

Pay at door January 17 - 18, 2004

Saturday 2:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Sunday 9:00 a.m. until championship game

Admission: \$10 - \$15

Hotel Information (\$73 per night,

McIntosh Inn, 746 Route 18 North,
E. Brunswick, NJ (732) 238-4900 Fax,
(732) 257-2023 Voice, www.mcintoshinn.com)

Refreshments will be on sale.

Info: Chuck Wallace, E-mail: wallschu@aol.com

EAAD, USADA and USADSF Sanction



Calendar of Events 2004

DDHH Advisory Council Meeting

Friday, January 30

9:30 - 12:30 p.m.

East Brunswick Public Library

East Brunswick, NJ

Info: 800-792-8339 V/TTY

DDHH Conference

***“NJ and Hearing Loss . . .
Are You in the Loop?”***

Thursday, April 29, 2004

9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Marriott Hotel

Trenton NJ

Details TBA

DDHH Office Closed

December 25, January 1, January 19, February 12, February 16

NJ DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF THE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING
PO BOX 074
TRENTON, NJ 08625-0074

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